

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00904

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA ON
SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

REF: 77 MADRID 10234 (192038Z DEC 77)

1. SUMMARY: SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO HAS BEEN AMONG
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THE TOPICS ADDRESSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA DURING
TWO RECENT APPEARANCES BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COM-
MITTEE OF THE SPANISH CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES, THE FIRST
ON DECEMBER 16 IN CLOSED SESSION, THE SECOND IN OPEN
SESSION ON JANUARY 11. OREJA'S STATEMENTS ON BOTH
OCCASIONS SOUGHT TO EDUCATE WITHOUT PROVOKING DEBATE ON
THE ISSUE, THE LATTER CONSIDERATION SEEMINGLY TAKING

PRIORITY OVER THE FORMER. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS ACCOUNT, OREJA AGAIN UNDERLINED AT THE DECEMBER SESSION THAT NO DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WOULD BE MADE UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN FULL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE QUESTION. HE REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SIGNING THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY IN TERMS OF THE VARIOUS STYLES OF PARTICIPATION BY EXISTING MEMBER STATES, CITING ICELAND, LUXEMBOURG, DENMARK, NORWAY, GREECE AND FRANCE. AS FOR THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ARGUED THAT, ASIDE FROM A SHARE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, EACH STATE DECIDES FOR ITSELF IN WHICH PROGRAMS AND AT WHAT LEVELS IT WISHES TO PARTICIPATE. (SEE REFTEL FOR OREJA'S EXPLANATION TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THESE REMARKS. OREJA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD ALSO STATED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT GOS POLICY FAVORS ENTRY INTO NATO.)

3. MEETING WITH THE SAME COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 11, OREJA GAVE THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS (ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS) TO QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY A PSOE (SOCIALIST) DEPUTY:

-- THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN AN INVITATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO IMPEDIMENT TO ITS BEING EXTENDED SINCE SPAIN NOW MEETS THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP;
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-- AS HE HAD SAID AT THE DECEMBER 16 SESSION OF THIS COMMITTEE, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO HAVE A DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO. THERE WILL BE A DEBATE WHEN THE INVITATION IS FORMULATED;

-- THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE U.S DOES NOT ENTANGLE SPAIN WITH NATO.

4. AGAIN IN COMMENTING TO THE AMBASSADOR ON THIS APPEARANCE, OREJA SAID THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE ANYTHING NEW. HIS COMMENT REGARDING SPAIN'S MEETING THE CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP WAS SIMPLY A REFERENCE TO SPAIN'S DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER. THIS REMARK TO THE AMBASSADOR WOULD ALSO SEEM TO IMPLY THAT THE SUGGESTION THAT AN INVITATION BY NATO PRECEDE A DEBATE ON THE ISSUE IN SPAIN SHOULD PERHAPS NOT BE TAKEN LITERALLY, BUT RATHER AS INTENDED SIMPLY TO SUGGEST AGAIN THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME. STABLER

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